

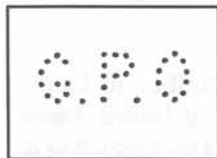
Edmund A. Bayley

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Article provided to *The Perfins Bulletin* by Dave Cooper #1773.

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I recently came across a used copy of the Barbados 1925-1935 Issue, ½d. green, perforated 14, canceled with a Type E10 (Clarke, Radford, and Cave) mark, and bearing a date that appears to be 4 JU 34. It is perforated "G.P.O.", with the type shown at the left.



I had never seen nor heard of this before, so I made some investigation and discovered the whole story. As it makes interesting reading, I will unfold it for the benefit

of readers. The story commences with a Circular from the Secretary of State for the Colonies which reads as follows:

M.p. H.S. 266/34

Circular from Secy of State.

Downing Street,  
19th May, 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that representations have recently been made to me in regard to the use of postage and revenue stamps for the prepayment of telegraphic, cable and other charges, as cases have come to light in which such stamps have been detached from the forms prior to their destruction and disposed of for private gain.

2. It has been suggested that in order to render any recurrence of this practice the use of stamps on telegraph and other forms should be abolished, or, alternatively, that stamps so used should, in addition to being obliterated by a date stamp in the ordinary way, be further cancelled in the office of issue by the use of a punching machine in such a manner as to destroy completely any philatelic value the stamps might otherwise possess.

3. An enquiry into the existing practice in several parts of the Colonial Empire reveals that in at least nine territories postage stamps are not employed for these purposes, and that the use of a punching machine for defacing such stamps has already been adopted by ten Colonial Governments.

4. The practice in the remaining territories of cancelling stamps, used for other than purely postal purposes, solely by means of a date stamp offers